



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Plumas
National
Forest

Mt. Hough Ranger District
39696 Highway 70
Quincy, CA 95971-6007
(530) 283-0555 Voice
(530) 534-7984 Text (TDD)

File Code: 1950

Date: May 24, 2017

Dear Interested Party,

Thank you for your interest and participation in the development of Feather River Aquatic Organism Passage Project (Feather River AOP Project). The Forest Service (USFS), Plumas National Forest, Mt. Hough Ranger District, and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared an Initial Study/Environmental Assessment (IS/EA) for the Feather River AOP Project which is available electronically for your review at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=50615>. If you would like a hard copy of the document, please contact Elaine Vercruysse, via one of the methods listed below.

The project is located along State Route (SR) 70 at five North Fork Feather River tributaries (Mill Creek, unnamed intermittent channel, Bear Creek, Rush Creek and Soda Creek) occurring from the communities of Pulga, CA (Butte County) to Paxton, CA (Plumas County). The project area includes National Forest System lands and private lands. The project would encompass all or portions of Township 23N, Range 5E, sections 14 and 32; Township 25N, Range 8E, section 18; Township 25N, Range 9E, section 8, Mount Diablo Base Meridian.

The Feather River AOP Project proposes to improve AOPs for five tributaries to the North Fork Feather River along SR 70 in Butte and Plumas Counties. The five tributaries currently act as impediments for native fish, amphibians and reptiles. Work would consist of constructing fish ladders in order to augment existing culverts for fish passage, and replacement of existing bridges/culverts with natural channel bottom structures that provide AOP for all species specific life stages. These AOP improvements will contribute significantly to USFS objectives for AOP and stream habitat improvement within the Plumas National Forest, and would restore spatial and temporal connectivity for aquatic and riparian species within and between watersheds.

How to Comment and Timeframe:

The Forest Service will accept comments on this proposal for 30 days following publication of the opportunity to comment legal notice in the Feather River Bulletin, which is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Commenters should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. It is the commenter's responsibility to ensure timely receipt of comments (36 CFR 218.25).

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. **Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection (CFR 218.5(a)).** Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

Comments must be submitted to the Responsible Official, Micki Smith, District Ranger, c/o Kyla Sabo, District NEPA Planner, Mt. Hough Ranger District, 39696 Highway 70, Quincy, CA, 95971, delivered to Mt. Hough Ranger District during business hours (M-F- 8:00am to 4:30 pm); or submitted by FAX (530)283-1821. Electronic comments, in common (.doc, .pdf, .rtf, .txt) formats, may be submitted to comments-pacificsouthwest-plumas-mthugh@fs.fed.us with Subject: Feather River AOP Project. In cases where no identifiable name is attached to a comment, a verification of identity will be required for objection eligibility. If using an electronic message, a scanned signature is one way to provide verification.

Objection Process Information:

This project is subject to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 218, Subparts A and B. This rule provides the public with an opportunity to object to a project before a decision is made. A 45-day pre-decisional



administrative review period, also known as objection period, will be initiated with the publication of a legal notice for objection and distribution of the draft decision notice (anticipated in spring 2017). **Only those who submit timely project-specific written comments during a public comment period are eligible to file an objection.** Individuals or representatives of an entity submitting comments must sign the comments or verify identity upon request.

If you have questions or concerns with this project please contact Elaine Vercruysse, Project Leader, at (530) 283-7744 or evercruysse@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Micki D. Smith", with a stylized flourish at the end.

MICKI D SMITH
District Ranger